

CCC Media Advisory

California Conservation Corps

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CCC Tackles Watsonville Wetlands Restoration Work

California Conservation Corps Director Will Semmes, appointed to head the Corps by Governor Schwarzenegger in September, will meet CCC staff and corpsmembers and get a first-hand look at a local project during a brief visit to Watsonville Wednesday afternoon.

Joining CCC Director Semmes at the project site will be Watsonville Mayor Ana Ventura Phares.

Time/Day: 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, December 8

Location: Upper end of Struve Slough, Watsonville.

Work: 10-15 Watsonville corpsmembers will be planting native plants, installing a drip irrigation system for the plants and spreading mulch.

Struve Slough is a two-year wetlands restoration partnership by the CCC and the City of Watsonville, funded through the Park Bond Act.

Since the project began, the CCC has removed hundreds of invasive, non-native plants and replaced them with freshwater marsh plants such as cattails, hundreds of arroyo willow cuttings, and numerous native riparian trees and shrubs. Corpsmembers also planted 50 California rose plants whose cuttings they earlier collected for propagation at the CCC's Napa native plant nursery.

Contact at project site: Conservation Supervisor Brenda Burks-Herrmann: (831) 901-6744 (cell). Watsonville Public Works Director Bob Geyer will also be on hand.

The CCC, a state department under the Resources Agency, hires young men and women for a year of service to California through natural resource work and emergency response. The Monterey Bay Center based in Watsonville not only serves Santa Cruz County, but its 45 corpsmembers also serve Monterey, San Benito and several South Bay counties.

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